His Name is ‘Zoz.’ Former GRT Stars on Discovery Channel

By Ramya Sankar

A team of four engineers prototyping a creation — sounds like a group project at MIT, right? The only difference? These engineers are on TV in a new show “Prototype This” which aired on the Discovery Channel last October. Zoz, the engineers is a former Senior House Graduate Resident Tutor, Andrew Brooks PhD ’07. Brooks — or Zoz as he was commonly known on campus — left MIT shortly after Spring 2006 to join the “Prototype This” team and spend the last two and a half years working on the show. He completed his thesis later in 2006 to fulfill requirements for his PhD in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science.

Early Childhood

As a child, Brooks was more into chemistries than computers. “There’s only two people get into chemistry; it’s either drugs or fire, and for me it was fire,” joked Brooks. But he did have an early exposure to computers as his parents gave him a second-hand Apple II+ to play with. The 1978 Apple II+ was the first computer he programmed. After learning all he could about pyrotechnics in high school, Brooks went on to double major in chemistry and computer science in college. He found himself spending more and more time in the computer lab instead of the chemistry lab. He built his first robotic system for a class project where he created an active vision system with cameras that could be controlled by the robot. The project sparked his interest in controlling wearable hardware and understanding human interactions.

Technology Review and News Office

Join Forces To Cut Costs, Redundancy

By Sanbyha Rawal

MIT is in the process of combining the assets, functions, and personnel of the MIT News Office and Technology Review magazine in order to eliminate redundant overhead and reconfigure communications more effectively. Jason Pontin, TR’s editor in chief, said the site’s new executive director, Sarah Gallop, will be in charge of a reorganization of Institute Communications.”

TR is meeting resistance from neighborhood residents as it hopes to construct a new building at 650 Main Street, a parking lot diagonally across from Tech Square. The 400,000-square-foot project will come before the Cambridge Planning Board on Tuesday, Mar. 3, amid concerns from the Area 4 Neighborhood Coalition (A4NC) that it will bring additional vehicular traffic to the area and integrate poorly with the neighborhood. The current plans call for the building to be commercial, with space leased to outside parties. The ground floor will contain retail space, while the upper floors will be able to accommodate either laboratories or offices.

Sarah Gallop, of the Office of Government and Community Relations, indicated that MIT has been working with the A4NC since October, meeting with them at least four occasions to solicit feedback and refine the plans for the building. Director of the Center for Real Estate Michael K. Ouwo ’76 said the A4NC’s concerns were not a surprise due to MIT’s continued interaction with community members.

In Short

By Elijah Jordan Turner

Traffic is Major Issue

Cut Dining Costs Five Percent by Showing Your ID

Show your MIT student ID and skip the 5 percent meals tax at Au- nal’s Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, and many other on-campus vendors — see a full list at http://web.mit.edu/dining/locations/retailoptions.html.

You don’t have to pay cash to get the discount, although one Dunkin’ Donuts employee told this reporter earlier this month. Some vendors may automatically give you the discount if you look like a student. Other vendors, like the Cambridge Grill, will ask whether you’re a student. If vendors don’t ask, you may need to remind them that you’re a student whose food is tax-exempt. Although it may technically be required, few vendors will actually ask to see your student ID.

By the way, this won’t work at LaVerde’s: they’re not considered to be operated by MIT, and they’re owned by a subsidiary of Boston University, and lease their Student Center space from the Institute. At LaVerde’s, MIT students, like everyone else, pay a 5 percent tax on prepared food.

—Michael McGrass-Hodeng

New Building Process Worries Local Board; Traffic is Major Issue

By Elijah Jordan Turner

“The feedback we received from the neighbors,” Ouwo said, “is similar to what they’ve stated in their letters to the Planning Board and City Council.”

The number of parking spots in the facility and the additional road traffic they will encourage is one of the A4NC’s primary concerns. The site is currently occupied by a 272-space parking lot, but the proposed building would have either 650 or 820 spaces if designated for lab or office space, respectively; there would be an underground parking facility in both situations. The A4NC considers the latter number too high, especially considering the site’s proximity to bus routes and the Kendall and Central T stops. Further, even though the coalition does not take issue with the ongoing construction closer to campus, there are concerns that the parking in the plans for 650 Main Street fails to consider the spaces created by those other projects.

“We would hope MIT would look at parking as a campus-wide issue rather than a per-building issue,” said A4NC member Sarah Roszer MCP ’05. Gallop and Ouwo, 650 Main, Page 11

http://tech.mit.edu/
Iraq Invokes Death Penalty For 28 Cultists in Attacks

By Taghreed El-Khodary

Iraqi security forces arrested 28 members of a small, secretive group, the Followers of the Mahdi, who were believed to be planning attacks in Kirkuk, according to a senior Iraqi official.

The arrests came after a series of coordinated twin bombings in Kirkuk on Wednesday that killed at least 36 people and wounded more than 100.

The blasts targeted a military base and a police station, and the officials said they believed the group was planning similar attacks to disrupt the upcoming local elections in Kirkuk, which is a flashpoint for tensions between Arabs and Kurds.

Iraq's interior minister, Gen. Mutawakel al-Dawud, said the group had been working on a campaign of violence to disrupt the elections and that the arrests were the result of a coordinated intelligence operation.

President Barack Obama, speaking at a news conference in Washington after the arrest of the leaders, said the United States would continue to support Iraq's efforts to improve security and counter the threat of extremist groups.

Obama said the United States would continue to work with the Iraqi government to strengthen its security forces and improve their ability to protect the country from attacks.

In a statement, the White House said the United States was committed to working closely with the Iraqi government to ensure that the security forces were effective in countering the threat.

The arrests were made on the basis of intelligence gathered by the Iraqi security forces, which have been working closely with the United States to combat the threat of suicide bombings and other attacks.

Former C.I.A. Officer Is Sentenced To Prison for Fraud

By David Johnston

A former C.I.A. official was sentenced to three months in prison for fraudulently obtaining a security clearance.

Kyle D. Foggo, who was the executive director at the CIA from 2004 to 2006, in that position, Foggo directed the agency’s administrative operations and budget, including some of its outside contracts.

Foggo pleaded guilty in September 2006 to one count of wire fraud.

In a statement, the judge said Foggo’s actions were “a breach of the trust and confidence reposed in him by the government.”

The judge sentenced Foggo to three months in prison, three years of supervised release and a $10,000 fine.

The C.I.A. said in a statement that Foggo was fired in 2008 after an internal investigation.

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President Obama, in a statement, said that the former C.I.A. official’s actions were “a serious breach of trust and confidence.”

Obama said that the former C.I.A. official had been given a security clearance and that he had used that clearance to obtain a security clearance for himself.

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Bosnia’s Serbs Threaten To Seek Independence

By Dan Bilefsky

Thirty years after the Bosnian Serb leader in the Balkan region, Stevo Pendarovski, declared independence, the Serbs are again calling for independence.

In a statement, Pendarovski said that the Serb Republic, which has been a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina since the end of World War II, was being threatened by the Bosnian government and that the Serbs were prepared to act.

Pendarovski said that the Serb Republic would hold a referendum on independence and that if a majority of Serbs voted for independence, the Serbs would declare independence and form their own state.

Serico Latal, a Bosnian diplomat, said that the Serb Republic had declared independence and that it was seeking international recognition.

Latal said that the United States and European Union were watching the situation closely and that they were concerned about the possibility of a conflict.

The United States and European Union have expressed concerns about the possibility of a conflict and have called for a peaceful resolution.

President Obama, in a statement, said that the United States was concerned about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that it was monitoring the situation closely.

Obama said that the United States was ready to work with the international community to find a peaceful solution.

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Weather

Cloudy and cool. Highs in the upper 20°F (-3°C).
No Application Needed: College Tours

By Leslie Wayne

WASHINGTON

The future of the American auto industry is getting off to a slow start.

The Energy Department has $25 billion to make loans to hasten the arrival of the next generation of automobile technology — electric-powered cars. But no money has been allocated so far, even though the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan program, established in 2007, has received applications from 75 companies, including start-ups as well as the three Detroit automakers.

With General Motors and Chrysler making repeat visits to Washington to

ask for bailout money to stave off insolvency, some members of Congress are starting to ask why the Energy Department money is not yet flowing. The loans also are intended to help fulfill President Obama’s campaign promise of putting one million electric cars on American roads by 2015.

“Politicians are breaking down the door asking why the money isn’t being sent out,” said Michael Cart, counsel to the Senate Energy Committee, which oversees the Energy Department.

It is a question that Lachlan W. Seward, director of the program, says he hears a lot these days. “We’re moving with a sense of urgency,” he said. Seward, who also oversees the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Board from 1981-1984. “But at the same time we are trying to do this in a responsible way that reflects prudent credit policy and taxpayer protections.”

Energy Department staff members said they were still reading loan applications, dozens of which arrived on the filing deadline of Dec. 31. Of those that, $2 billion more is coming to the department from the $787 billion stimulus package. That money will be used to develop the advanced battery technology needed to power electric cars, batteries more durable, safer and cheaper than anything available today.
Letters To The Editor

The Case for the Status Quo

Over the last few weeks there has been an accelerated amount of debate over student issues, especially dining. There has been debate over how MIT should step into the future, while remembering our roots, and being realistic about our present. There are administrators, trying to keep MIT as a fun and competitive university, and students, trying to keep MIT... well, like MIT.

The Tech has done an admirable job showing both sides of this debate, especially recently. First they printed articles about those articles about the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee, and then Akash Chandawarkar's column about how administrators are awesome. Then lots of angry rebuttals. I'm writing this as a counterpart to both sides, and not in support of either. This is just about nothing. Do nothing on dining, housing, hacking, judicial committees, the General Institute Requirements...just do nothing.

First, doing nothing is popular. In today's deteriorating economy, corporations around the world are a race to do less as fast as possible. Lay-offs, sell-offs, worst-off — getting rid of capital and responsibility is fashionable right now.

Second, now is not a time to make big plans. It's cold outside. Classes are hard. People can't find jobs. The budget is being cut. With all this bad news, all this planning seems depressing.

Most importantly, the status quo is legacy and undefiled. Does MIT have any flaws? Sort of. Student-run judicial systems? Sort of. 'Kitchens'? Sort of. Does MIT support and understand student traditions like hacking? Sort of.

I came to MIT three years ago at 17 years old. I have never been asked for AI at an MIT party. For the record, I'm not a girl. I'm a dude, an overweight, underfed, very hairy person with a penis. Yet the world seems filled with frat brothers and dorm groups who love to give me alcohol.

My freshman year I stood next to an MIT cop, at a party, with a red cup, asking him about the state senate while drinking from the red cup. Half a dozen MIT staff and dozens of student risk managers have only created an ill-defined system whose best features are cascading levels of plausible deniability and lots of paperwork. There is no real good thing to say.

That's why the status quo is so great. Ev- er- y day the student body defines for itself how it will live and learn. The debate lives on, the boundaries are pushed, and administrators are constantly trying to change things. The con- stand debate and discontent equals us in a soft managed democracy.

This is why the state says nothing. The fact that our problems are never actually solved helps make MIT students such great problem solvers.

So please, keep on debating, meeting, stall- ing, and protesting, all to no effect. Because to me, doing nothing is the kind of non-change I can believe in.

Christopher Balpath '09

Where is the Student Activism?

I am writing in reply to the column by Yaniv Yairi of Opinions and Felix Kaufman that appeared in the Jan. 28, 2009, issue of The Tech, titled “Expecting More from an MIT Professor: How Professor Chomsky’s Talk Failed the MIT Community.”

Although I happen to agree with Professor Chomsky’s assessment of the situation in Israel and Palestine, I will let him defend his statements and produce evidence as requested by the authors of the article. I think this will be fairly easy. For one, the authors could have attended a local seminar last Tuesday, Feb. 17, where an Israeli activist, Shachaf Polakow, gave a presentation and explained the situation he has personally witnessed in Israel and Palestine.

I would like to spend most of my effort in debunking the lazy misrepresentation of the change, that Professor Chomsky has somehow failed the community. Now, this is by far the most dangerous statement, in my opinion. One inter- pretation of it is that one of us were to express an opinion different from that coming from CNN or FOX, one fails their community. Maybe the author does not intend that, but that is how it comes across.

I am actually surprised, although I should not be. There are no angry articles in The Tech stating that 99% of professors have failed the MIT community by keeping quiet. Being quiet on the issue is perhaps the worst stance that MIT students and faculty can adopt.

Where is the renouned student activism?

Where is the MIT anti-war movement? Where is the MIT labor movement? Where is the MIT global justice and equality movement? Do not know. Maybe I am not looking hard enough.

Then when one person raises the issue, and raises an unconventional (although not an un- reasonable) explanation for the problems, we have a very lengthy article arguing that that person is failing the community. Quite a re- peated achievement for the community of an institution that calls itself a university.

It seems to be healthy to get these debates and voices into the open. For one, Professor Chomsky has also argued, debates, argu- ments, and disagreements are a sign “that the education is taking place. We need more of that, not less.”

Alex I. Gruenberg ‘06

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Austin Chu, Editor in Chief Nick Bushak, Managing Editor Steve Howland, Executive Editor Michael McGready-Hegde, and Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukmann.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board who wish to publish their disagreements with the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial. Dissents are the official opinion of the authors of the article. I think this will be fairly easy. For one the authors could have attended a local seminar last Tuesday, Feb. 17, where an Israeli activist, Shachaf Polakow, gave a presentation and explained the situation he has personally witnessed in Israel and Palestine.

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To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff if you are unsure where to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.tech.mit.edu.
President Obama delivered a brilliant speech Tuesday evening in what was billed as a quasi-State of the Union address. In fact, a whopping eighty-five percent of people interviewed in a CNN poll said that the speech made them feel more optimistic about where the U.S. is headed in the next few years.

Take a moment to let that number sink in. This is not the fifty-three percent of the popular vote that Obama garnered in the November election. This is eighty-five percent. Hello, public mandate. Goodbye, Washington gridlock.

Sure, public polls can be wrong or misleading. And, certainly, high public approval ratings can be ephemeral — just ask the last president. However, there is no doubting that Obama’s speech tapped into the American public’s grave concern about the health of our economy and the future of our nation, and offered us reassuring solutions for how we can meet the challenges ahead.

I happen to believe that the policies he articulated — overhauling our nation’s energy, health care, and education systems, timely stimulus while putting his opponents on the defensive — are the right solutions to this crisis. Regardless of whether or not one agrees with Obama’s vision for governance, however, it’s difficult to deny that the president has scored a grand success at mobilizing public opinion to push his agenda through Congress and sideline the Republican opposition.

The three policy areas that he chose as the animating principles of the speech — energy, health care, and education — are overwhelmingly popular issues on which the American people, left and right, are craving for transformative change. Although boosting funding for these issues is fundamentally a very liberal idea, he deftly couched these proposals in pragmatic language calling for reform, accountability, and the elimination of waste.

Selling the financial bailout, on the other hand, is a much more challenging issue for any politician — including for former President Bush. The vast majority of the public does not seem to fully understand how essential the financial sector is to both large and small businesses alike. No doubt the image of Wall Street fat cats provides a useful icon for fanning the flames of public resentment.

Even on this point, however, President Obama made a strong case for implementing stimulus while putting his opponents on the defensive. He touted the results of the bipartisan “fiscal responsibility summit” he marshaled the day before and promised to send the Congress a budget that cuts the federal deficit in half by the end of his first term in office.

He advocated a housing plan that “won’t help speculators or that neighbor down the street who bought a house he could never afford” and touted the creation of a new lending fund to help consumers obtain automobile, college, and small business loans. In addition, he made clear that he and Vice President Biden would play an aggressive role in ensuring that state governments and bank executives spend federal stimulus aid responsibly, and he confirmed that he would “force the necessary adjustments” when necessary.

Obama masterfully tapped into the disconnect between people’s fears for the future and their “can do” image of an America that has never failed to excel in difficult times. He cited how, “in the wake of war and depression, the GI Bill sent a generation to college and created the largest middle class in history.” He alluded to a government that “didn’t supplant private enterprise; it catalyzed private enterprise.” He alluded to a government that “didn’t fail” and touted the creation of a new lending fund to help consumers obtain automobile, college, and small business loans. In addition, he made clear that he and Vice President Biden would play an aggressive role in ensuring that state governments and bank executives spend federal stimulus aid responsibly, and he confirmed that he would “force the necessary adjustments” when necessary.

Obama’s skill as a leader and a strong orator was especially apparent in light of the bumbled effort by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal to deliver the Republican answer to his address. Jindal has been promoted as the Republican Party’s answer to Obama — young, dynamic, ethnic, and technocratic — but his speech came off as fluff, full of “can do” without any of the “should do.” Further, Jindal’s delivery was dreadful. Commentators have since described his tone as “childish,” “sing-songy,” and “weirdly robotic,” and his awkward presentation made him seem more like a Palin redux than the next Obama.

Clearly, Jindal did not perform well, and perhaps he is not yet ready for the national spotlight. But his troubles mirror the Republicans’ woes more generally; they remain a party without leadership and without a platform to rival Obama’s Presidential agenda.

If the GOP sends this sing-songy version of Jindal against the Democrats in 2012 with his cookie-cutter, Playskool vision of America in tow, Barack Obama will simply eat him alive. David A. Weinberg is a PhD student in MIT’s Department of Political Science. He formerly served as a Middle East advisor to the Democratic Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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CONCERT REVIEW
Wanna Dance? Los Campesinos! The Soundtrack to College Life
By Benjamin Shanks
Lamont Center, Paradise Lounge
Feb. 13, 2009
I touched Nerf Campesinos’s ass. Both hands, both cheeks.
Anyone with a pair of eyes knows that they still exist.
I bought a group in underground music today (plus, you know, their songs, are all right, too). The Welsh seven-piece are members all prefer the surly name Campesinos’, packed up their extraneous earring collection, and interrupted my dancy-and-two-pop-whatever-to-the-Paradise lounge on Friday, Feb. 13.
“Hey, how’s it goin’ Titus Andronicus out of New Jersey. The band took a simple pop-punk structure, covered it in distortion, and called it art. I call it My Bloody Pennywise.
In any case, they don’t drop off their 2008 record The Airing of Grievances. In between bouts of shilling for their merch table, they got around to playing two regional-send—cover — a Blueprint Spring song for their home state, and a bizarre rendition of the classic Sir Walter Raleigh’s Massakers anthem “Roadrunner.” Honestly, if they were going to cover anything, I would have rather heard them sound off on the Dropkick Murphys — and that, my friends, is no compliment in the circle these guys are from.
Fortunately, we had LC to stone for the “Rock And Roll Heaven.” Their opening track, “Playing/With The Wall,” is an alluring, winningly energetic, “Way To Fall,” the opening track to their newest album, We Are Beautiful, We Are Drowned. Front man Gareth around the stage, pummeling the keyboard and making a drum and a drumstick in the other, banging on seemingly every percussion instrument of the song, the crowd was fazed, and one of the bars of the ‘spiel had flown across the stage.
I hope he’s making boatloads of money, but it isn’t one of those “I have no goddamned clue what just happened but I so like it” type of moments that the “high-cultural” crowd is wont to have. Regardless of whatever the hell was going on there, Antony came out and was stunning. For(N)ever is Hoobastank’s fourth studio album, and the band’s biggest release, having sold over a million copies, so I thought it would be a good idea of what was being discussed.
“I just think it’s weird that we’re all being
For the gravity of his songs, Antony held everything in place. For(N)ever isn’t a great album, but I might limp along to 2007. I hope he’s making boatloads of money, but it’s not a great album, but I might confess that even after several listens I still have no clue what just happened to them. Clocking in at a tepid thirty-eight minutes, it’s not a great album, but I might have been feeling better, mediocre enough that you still wanted to feel it, you know, right there with you.
For(N)ever is Hoobastank’s fourth studio album, coming three years after their last (rela-
tively uneventful) release, five years after the double-platinum success of “The Reason.” and right after their 2007 album, which spawned a number of top 40 hits.
On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. Their opening track, “Am I Your Friend” is a dour, blue pop-punk song, complete with harmonies, that’s as refreshing as a summer breeze.
In short, For(N)ever is not a great album, but I might have been feeling better, mediocre enough that you still wanted to feel it, you know, right there with you.
This album is for you. Otherwise, I recommend finding a decomposing raccoon in a slice of your birthday cake. sure you could ignore it, but we’re all too damn busy with real life, so I might as well say, just being there.
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Antony Delivers, Johnsons Support Outstandingly
This Staff’s Heavy — Whether You’re High-Brow or Not
By Benjamin Shanks
Berklee Performance Center
Feb. 22, 2009
I touched Antony Hegarty’s ass. Both hands, both cheeks.
Okay, so this one didn’t really happen. But I did get to see him when he came to Berklee with his band, the Johnsons, last Sunday.
I hope he’s making boatloads of money, but it isn’t one of those “I have no goddamned clue what just happened but I so like it” type of moments that the “high-cultural” crowd is wont to have. Regardless of whatever the hell was going on there, Antony came out and was stunning. For(N)ever is Hoobastank’s fourth studio album, and the band’s biggest release, having sold over a million copies, so I thought it would be a good idea of what was being discussed.
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This album is for you. Otherwise, I recommend finding a decomposing raccoon in a slice of your birthday cake. sure you could ignore it, but we’re all too damn busy with real life, so I might as well say, just being there.
For(N)ever is Hoobastank’s fourth studio album, coming three years after their last (rela-
tively uneventful) release, five years after the double-platinum success of “The Reason.” and right after their 2007 album, which spawned a number of top 40 hits. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic-al-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listenes I still have no clue what just happened to them.
Two years after the success of her 2007 Zedtone release Miracle of Five, Eleni Mandell is back with her latest work, Artificial Fire. If you take a quick listen to Miracle, you might not imagine that the same artist is the mastermind behind both albums. However, that’s where Mandell’s strength as a songwriter and band member comes through. While Mandell focused on slower, acoustic-driven ballads (“Wings In His Eyes,” “Moonlight, Lamp Low,” “Salt Truck”), Mandell brought out the electric guitars for Artificial Fire. The title track opens the album, introducing a purifying dirty and dissonant guitar riff that calls and responds to itself over a steady drum beat. Mandell’s voice is clean through the mix, and Mandell and guitarist Drake provide a generous amount of support work to demonstrate rebellion.

Throughout the album, Mandell’s backing band provides a generous amount of support to enrich her songs. Jeremy Drakes (guitar), Kevin Fitzgerald (bass), and Dave Trombino (drums) all fill the songs out, and they collaborate with Mandell throughout the recording process.

While Mandell provided guitar work, it’s her voice that stands above on this album. She makes her music more fun and upbeat. Songs like “Little Foot” and the punk-rocker closer “Cracked” achieve this youthful feel while still remaining authentic. The track sounds like a Sleater-Kinney or L7 anthem promoting freedom from too much thinking: “I just want to forget / there are riches to be found in ignorance.”

On the country-infused “Bigger Burn,” Mandell seems to raminate on a bad breakup. Her lyrics are direct and forthcoming, as she openly sings “you didn’t call to let me know / you simply walked away / and let it end.”

The trajectory of the album includes the whirl of the aforementioned heavy hitterers, but also a fair share of lighter, atmospheric ballads. “I Love Planet Earth” features a disjointed dream beat interspersed with a solitary guitar riff that echoes throughout the sonic space — listen on headphones to get the full effect. The song even opens with “space fog,” ethereal noises provided by Drake. Mandell approaches minimalism on “Two Faces,” whose false starts and bell-like motifs bring the mood down toward the end of the album.

The clear standout tracks are “Front Door” and “Needle and Thread.” The former successfully uses a ring modulator, a guitar effect that creates a unique jog sound. The hypnotic tone chimes throughout the song, lending an amazing structural element to the verses. Mandell shifts between her signature spoken voice and her elegant folk singing.

“Needle and Thread” includes the most interesting chordal harmonies, and a Nels Cline–influenced guitar solo, adding just enough “weird” to the song. (Cline and guitarist Drake are in fact colleagues, and it was Cline who recommended that Mandell recruit Drake for her band.)

Fans of Mandell’s much earlier works may shy away from Artificial Fire, but Mandell has contributed some of her strongest songwriting on this album. The sheer variety of songs and the candor of Mandell’s out-of-the-diary lyrics present an album concept few artists of Mandell’s status have yet mastered.

Eleni Mandell’s new performing songs from Artificial Fire at TT: The Bear’s Place in Cambridge on Sunday, March 8.
February 27, 2009

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 10.

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

Figure 96: This above graph illustrates an average “premature death pyramid,” using as an example a series of common activities. Theoretically, there is an inherent order in the performance of all activities, such that one can deduce the probability of each activity to be used for processing others. Due to the nature of the graph, it is more difficult to predict one activity over another. For instance, in this case, the individual is about 4 times more likely to smoke (0.015) without smoking in preparing tax returns. Although the numbers in the file are representative, they support several trends: (1) the sharp rise in average graduation time, with the advent of new technologies such as video games and the Internet; (2) the relationship between smoking, smoking, and work; and (3) the relatively high number of tax preparation cases in the graduate student population. (See article at http://pseudoscience.blogspot.com/)

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5 Part of B.A.
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15 Simpson kid
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18 Needle case
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25 6th sense
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33 __ jacet
36 Distress signal
37 With all one’s might
38 Sculptor Chillida
41 Like golf balls
43 Stuffed __ (kishke)
44 Actor Silver
45 Last letter of plurals?
46 Author of “Soft Pretzels with Mustard”
51 Peer Gynt’s mother
52 Wicked
53 Consumed with relish
55 Interlaced
56 Mustard
57 Source of 20A, 28A, and 54A namesakes
58 Dashing youth
59 Colorado city that starts with “F”
60 Opera highlight
61 Title for Godiva
62 Lingerie item
63 Bagel topper
64 Evening in Pisa
65 Notes of scales
66 Dinner bread
67 Writer
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Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
Let’s be honest — you probably just opened *The Tech* to this page. Well, so did thousands of other readers.

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Brooks Builds Robots, Makes Television Shows; a Perfect Life

Zot, from Page 1

with robots.

Life at MIT

Wanting to pursue robotics in graduate school, Brooks decided that MIT would be the best place for him. He immediately found himself feeling at home on the east side of campus, leading him to become a GRT at Senior House.

Brooks recalls Steer Roast, an annual alumni event that brings back residents of Senior House for a weekend full of food and music, as his favorite memory of living in the dorm. Steer Roast is “a kind of family reunion, but with a large family,” described Brooks. Asked about his experience as a Senior House GRT, Brooks said that it “is very easy because people are very independent; they take care of their own problems.”

As a student, Brooks worked in the Media Lab with the then Robotic Life group that is now the Personal Robots Group. His research was focused on designing effective communication between humans and robots. His research took him to Japan, where he has been many times, to work with Sony’s QDR, a humanoid robot. While there, he implemented the first automatically generically engineered language that incorporated proximities, the management of interpersonal space, such as crossing one’s arms when one doesn’t want to engage in conversation.

Engineers on Television

“Prototype This” was not the first television show Brooks has been on. As a student, he was a part of a team of MIT students who took part in “Crop Circles: Mysteries in the Field,” a 2002 special on Discovery Channel about crop circles. The program featured undergraduate and graduate students from MIT creating crop circles in the middle of Ohio. The most memorable part of the show for Brooks was when a viewer came up to him and said that he really wanted to go to MIT because he was inspired by the stuff they did on the show.

The members of “Prototype This” that pitched the show to Discovery Channel created a demo tape which included clips from the crop circles show. Unbeknownst to Brooks, the tape also included demos Brooks had done of his gadgets. Once the demo was accepted, they contacted him and had him do a four-minute webisode about crop circles. The program pitched the show to Discovery Channel which first aired on Nov. 12, 2008, there was trouble with the hydrant. This project was a good example of the time and resource constraints for the team. The size of the simulator was determined by the smallest size tube they could purchase. Of all the episodes taped, Brooks thought this design was the best.

“Prototype This” took over two and a half years to get to what we see on TV,” said Brooks. One of his favorite episodes to film was the fire-fighting episode, which first aired on Nov. 19, 2008, in which the team created a robotic assistant that helped carry equipment up flights of stairs. He enjoyed this project because there was an evident need for the product and it was tested out by the firefighting workers. “It was the best endorsement for our design,” said Brooks.

The team of engineers were given 12 days to shoot each episode. Many things went wrong but were edited out of the show. During the water slide simulator episode which first aired on Nov. 12, 2008, there was trouble with the hydraulics. This project was a good example of the time and resource constraints for the team. The size of the simulator was determined by the smallest size tube they could purchase. Of all the episodes taped, Brooks thought this design was the best.

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News Office Tries to Reach Out More to The Outside World

News Office, from Page 1

...independence from the Institute might be compromised by having Pontin simultaneously direct the magazine as well as the News Office. Kolenbrander said that TR still has full editorial independence and can publish anything that its board decides to publish.

As communications director, Pontin is collecting information in order to plan how MIT’s communications functions will be reformed, and is still thinking through how the News Office should be run and how it should handle communications for the Institute.

“Honest to god, I’m just wandering around the campus, meeting with every dean, every school, and the senior administration,” Pontin said in a telephone interview from an airport in Munich.

Pontin believes this restructuring is attractive because it eliminates redundancy and saves resources. These plans include more direct communication with the outside world, including through the leveraging of TR’s web development staff to improve the News Office’s website, as well as restructuring the web.mit.edu top-level, which is a “seven-year-old design.”

Pontin remains “committed to the retention of the basic spotlight feel” of web.mit.edu, saying they will “absolutely continue” to high-light campus events and offer the opportunity for the MIT community to contribute imagery.

Pontin said that MIT “needs[i] a much-better MIT news website. Possibly several. One for press, one for community, one for the wider world.” A future website may include social networking functions, Pontin said. Pontin also expects to add a “News from MIT” section to TR’s web page, which reaches 650,000 people.

Pamela Dumas Serfes was director of the News Office from December 2003 through January 2009, but as of this restructuring, she no longer retains a role. Neither Kolenbrander nor Pontin were willing to explain her new role, though Pontin said “she still has a desk; she continues to receive a salary.”

Kolenbrander would not say what Dumas Serfes’ current position or role was, but he did say that she was no longer “Executive Director of News and Communications,” the title that appears for her in MIT’s online personnel directory. Dumas Serfes herself declined to comment.

Staff are now being shared between the two organizations, the News Office and the magazine. Pontin suggested the News Office could make use of TR’s editorial staff, noting that currently MIT spokesperson Greg Frost is forced to copublish his own press releases.

TR’s management team consists of Nathaniel W. Nickerson, Deputy Editor of Technology Review; David Fuscher, Vice President for Technology Review Online, who manages TR’s web development staff; and James E. Coyle, Chief Operating Officer of Technology Review, who will also serve as an operations manager for the News Office.

MIT and Local Board Disagree on Greenery of the Proposed Bldg.

650 Main, from Page 1

Meanwhile, counter that the parking estimates are in line with estimates provided by the City of Cambridge. Owu notes that those estimates even consider the ten-percent reduction in single-occupant vehicular traffic to the area.

Despite that, Roszler hopes the city would consider the proximity to public transit when making their estimates.

“We want any development near the T to recognize the access to public transportation,” said Roszler. The A4NC is aiming for 650 parking spaces with the new building, although it still feels the site’s location would work well with fewer spots.

There was also debate over an MIT-owned parking lot located at the corner of Cherry and School Streets and associated with a building formerly run by Polaroid at 750 Main Street. The lot has remained largely unused since Polaroid’s departure at the beginning of the decade and Minika Vanheusden, who also works with the A4NC, says members of the community would prefer the site be used for community needs. However, Gallop noted that the lot, located three blocks from 650 Main Street, is entirely separate from this proposed project.

The Institute has informed the coalition that they will continue to speak with city officials on the future of the lot until a decision has been made regarding the fate of the former Polaroid building.

“We wouldn’t want to give the parking lot away until we decide what to do with 750,” said Gallop.

Other concerns surround the size of the building, which is estimated at a height of 120 feet. According to Roszler, a building that tall would cast shadows on the adjacent residences in the middle of the day during the winter. Were the building, said Roszler, to have one fewer floor, that problem would be alleviated.

Owu says the building will welcome the community in, with nearly thirty percent of the property being covered in open spaces in the form of plazas and grassy areas.

“The overall amount of open space on the site is approximately 29 percent,” said Owu, “almost twice the amount suggested in the city’s design guidelines.” The design of the building would also encourage pedestrians to walk through the development as a shortcut from Main Street to Portland Street and Albany Street. However, Roszler counters that the green space would not be easily visible from the street. While she understands that the geography of the location makes a green space accessible to Main Street, she notes that the green space as it is now is designed more for the tenants of the proposed building rather than the community as a whole.

Architects have responded to some of these concerns by adding awnings along the sidewalk and including a glass facade. The plan also calls for trees, benches, and sidewalks larger than normal.

“The retail uses on Main Street will create a more active street edge that further enhances the pedestrian experience,” said Owu.

The A4NC has overall felt that MIT has not been fully upholding its commitment to environmental friendliness, but a recent decision has allayed some of those worries.

The U.S. Green Building Council has developed a set of standards known as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, that have been used to evaluate the environmental sustainability of more than 14,000 buildings worldwide. MIT was initially only going to seek a “certified” LEED rating for 650 Main Street, but they recently decided to obtain the higher “silver” rating, in line with its academic buildings currently under construction.

MIT will face the Cambridge Planning Board at the Department of Cambridge Community Development (344 Broadway) on Tuesday, Mar. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Both MIT and the A4NC will consider their next steps after Tuesday’s meeting, which is open to the public, but the coalition, despite its lingering concerns, has already committed to continuing working with MIT.

“We’ll continue to talk to them regardless of the outcome,” said Vanheusden.

Solution to Crossword

We like new staff members!

join@tech.mit.edu

The MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team invites you to the...

The MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team invites you to the...

Solar Vehicle Unveiling!

Today, 2.27.2009
3 to 5pm, Lobby 13

Check out our new car
Talk to the team
Meet our sponsors

Infineon
Ford
3M
Altium
Miir

Vehicle Presentation at 3pm
Light refreshments to follow
Men’s Fencing Takes Second at N.E. All-Division Championships

By Gabriel A. Chan
and Daniel S. Levine

The MIT men’s varsity fencing team took second place among 13 schools at the New England All-division Championship this past Sunday. The Engineers finished the day with 82 victories and 26 losses, just three bouts behind first-place Boston College. Despite finishing second in the three-weapon team competition, MIT finished first in two of the three squad competitions.

The competition, held at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., was held in two rounds. In the initial team round, each team fielded nine fencers, one for each of three positions per weapon (foil, épée, or saber). The top fencers from each position would then qualify for the individual competition in each weapon.

MIT turned in its strongest squad performance in the foil competition, capturing first place with a 30-6 record. Led by freshmen Benjamin N. Nield and Daniel S. Levine, who finished 11-1 and 10-2 respectively, and rounded out by sophomore Richard C. Latfander, who finished 9-3, the foil squad’s impressive performance can be seen as a sign of things to come from this young squad. During the team competition, Nield finished second among all fencers in his position and Levine finished first, a performance that qualified both for the individual competition. In the individual competition, both advanced to the second and final round of 6, and Nield received the silver medal while Levine finished fifth.

In the épée competition, Matt L. Gethers ’09 and captain Gabriel A. Chan ’09 led the squad to a very tight three-way first-place tie with an overall squad record of 26-10. Gethers, a recent Rhodes Scholar, finished 8-4, followed by Chan, who also finished 8-4. Carter A. Chang ’12 went 10-2 to place first in his position. All three of MIT’s épéists qualified for the individual competition. Both Chan and Gethers advanced to the top 6 round with Gethers receiving the bronze medal and Chan finishing sixth.

MIT’s saber squad also posted a 26-10 record to finish in fourth place. Igor Kopylov ’09 notched a third-place finish in his position with a 15-3 record, followed by Ranigarang D. Nadadur ’10, who tallied a 7-5 record to reach the final. Maximilian L. Brandt ’11, who ended the day with a 10-2 record, placed second. All three sabreurs qualified for the individual competition.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, MIT will take on some of the highest ranked teams in the nation at one of the oldest college restaurants. The top fencers from each of MIT’s foil, épée, and saber squad will be combined into a single squad that will compete at the NCAA National Championship at the NCAA Northeast Regional qualifying meet to be held at MIT’s Johnson Athletic Center on Sunday, March 8.

Shin Claims Gold As Women Capture First

By Molly A. Kozminsky

Last Sunday, the MIT women’s fencing team finished first out of 12 teams with a 96-22 record at the New England All Division Championship. Robin S. Shin ’12 went on to take gold in the individual saber competition.

The tournament, held at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., was fenced in an ARC strip format, with each team fielding a fencer for each of three positions (“A,” “B,” and “C”) per weapon (foil, épée, or saber). The top fencers from each position then went on to the individual competition in each weapon.

Winning the Vitale Cup for the most victories, the saber squad, composed of freshmen Shin, Molly A. Kozminsky, and Lauren M. Chilton, captured first place with an impressive record of 38-1. All three fencers qualified for the individual competition, each being ranked first in her position. Shin and Kozminsky went on to take first and third, respectively.

The épée squad, which includes Czelfia S. Lui ’10, Jenna G. Caldwell ’11, and Lindsey C. Graham ’10, achieved a record of 32-5 in the team competition, propelling them to third place. Linda and Caldwell qualified for the individual competition, and Linda ultimately finished fourth, while Caldwell finished ninth.

With a strong record of 26-13, the foil squad, consisting of Stephanie H. Shin ’10, Kirsten Housler ’12, and Sophie M. Monahan ’11, finished fifth. All three fencers were nominated to the individual competition, with Shin placing fifth.

Men’s Basketball Making History

In the 108-year history of the men’s basketball program at MIT, the team has never won a conference championship. That could change this weekend.

The second-seeded Engineers will play Babson College this Saturday in the semifinals of the New England Men’s and Women’s Athletic Conference Championship. MIT split their season series with Babson, including a two-point loss in February. The game will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday night at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Should MIT win, the team would play in the championship game, also at WPI, on Sunday afternoon. Engineers reached the semifinals after a close 66-62 overtime win against Coast Guard in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Leading the Engineers is senior guard James M. “Jimmy” Bartolotti ’09, who this week was named as the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America of the Year.

—Shreeya Sebastian, Contributing Editor

S P O R T S

Free tickets for MIT students!

Radius Ensemble
Featuring Marcus Thompson, viola

Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 8 pm
Killian Hall at MIT, 14W-111

Piazzolla

Gubaidulina

Ibert

Brahms

Tangos for wind quintet (arr. Scott)
Quasi hoquetus for viola, bassoon, & piano
Aria for flute, clarinet, & piano
String quartet in F, Op. 88

Friday, March 20, 2009, at 8 pm
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

John Harbison Winter’s Tale

Boston Modern Orchestra Project

John Harbison: A Winter’s Tale

Friday, March 20, 2009, at 8 pm
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

Concert performance - Opera in two acts

Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205) Monday - Friday
2 - 5:30pm in person, first-come, first-served only

http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html

The Tech’s Athlete of the Week: Emily Houston ’10

Emily F. Houston ’10 has been named the Mid-Atlantic Conference Air Rifle Shooter of the Month for January after leading the Engineers to victory in that category in the Bean Pot competition last month. The junior in Mechanical Engineering, has now registered the high score in this category in five of the Engineers’ eight competitions on the year.

Houston’s total of 579 was tied for the top individual total in air rifle at the Bean Pot and helped Tech outscore runner-up Pennsylvania State University, 2235-2229. Houston, who carries a 4.9 grade point average in Mechanical Engineering, has now registered the high score in this category in five of the Engineers’ eight competitions on the year.

The Engineers are now looking forward to the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championship, which will be held on Sunday, March 7, hosted by the Virginia Military Academy. MIT defeated Penn State in the Ex- pert Division of air rifle at last year’s Championship.

—Greg McKeever, I D P E R Staff

Sc o r e b o a r d

Men’s Basketball
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (12-13) 62
MIT (18-8) 66

Men’s Volleyball
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009
MIT (13-9) 3
Worcester Institute of Technology (7-8) 0

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009
MIT (14-9) 3
Daniel Webster College (3-6) 0

U p c o m i n g H o m e E v e n t s

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009
Pistol Alumni Match
10 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

Men’s Track New England Division III Championship
1 1 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center

Men’s Volleyball vs. Elm College
Women’s Tennis vs. Bates College
Women’s Gymnastics vs. SUNY Brockport
Women’s Tennis vs. Emerson College
Men’s Volleyball vs. Emerson College
Rifle Alumnus Match
1 p.m., duPont Gymnasium
1 p.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble
3 p.m., Rockwell Cage
TBA, duPont Athletic Center

TBA, duPont Athletic Center

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS